

That which is claimed:

1. A method for making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising the steps of:

spreading a crimped tow in a direction perpendicular to the tow's travel by use of at least two banding jets;  
de-registering the crimped tow;  
shaping the de-registered tow; and  
distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow.

2. The method of Claim 1 further comprising two banding jets, one banding jet with a width,  $W_1$ , and the other with a width,  $W_2$ .

3. The method of Claim 2 wherein  $W_1 < W_2$ .

4. The method of Claim 1 further comprising supplying compressed gas to the banding jets.

5. The method of Claim 4 wherein the compressed gas having a pressure in the range of 0.5 to 5.0 psig.

6. The method of Claim 5 wherein the compressed gas to one jet ranges from 2.5 to 3.0 psig.

7. The method of Claim 5 wherein the compressed gas to one jet ranges from 3.0 to 3.5 psig.

8. The method of Claim 1 further comprising shaping the de-registered tow to a substantially rectangular cross-section.

9. The method of Claim 1 further comprising applying a liquid to the tow.

10. An apparatus for making an absorbent composite from a continuous tow comprising:

means for spreading a crimped tow in a direction perpendicular to the tow's travel by use of at least two banding jets;

means for de-registering the crimped tow;

means for shaping the de-registered tow; and

means for distributing a particulate onto the shaped tow.

11. The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising two banding jets, one banding jet with a width,  $W_1$ , and the other with a width,  $W_2$ .

12. The apparatus of Claim 10 wherein  $W_1 < W_2$ .

13. The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising supplying compressed gas to the banding jets.

14. The apparatus of Claim 13 wherein the compressed gas having a pressure in the range of 0.5 to 5.0 psig.

15. The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the compressed gas to one jet ranges from 2.5 to 3.0 psig.

16. The apparatus of Claim 14 wherein the compressed gas to one jet ranges from 3.0 to 3.5 psig.

17. The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising means for shaping the de-registered tow to a substantially rectangular cross-section.

18. The apparatus of Claim 10 further comprising means for applying a liquid to the tow.